

Rare Plants of Louisiana



Poa sylvestris - woodland bluegrass Grass Family (Poaceae)

Rarity Rank: S1/G5

	1	2	3	4	5
State					
Global					
	imperiled		rare		secure

Range: Eastern U.S. plus Ontario

Recognition:

- A small to medium tufted perennial shade-loving forest grass, 30 to 80 cm tall
- Leaves occur basally, blades elongate, up to 30 cm long and 1 to 5 mm wide
- Panicles open, from 10 to 15 cm long, 3 to 8 cm broad; lower panicle branches reflexed
- Lowest node in panicle has 5 to 7 whorled, spreading branches
- Spikelets laterally compressed, 2 to 4 flowered, 3 to 4.5 mm long
- Lemmas (which sit opposite paleas, a lemma and palea together subtend a flower) 2.2 to 3 mm long, nerves pubescent
- Lemma has a tuft of long, kinked, silky hairs at its base



Photo by R. J. Soreng, courtesy of Smithsonian Institution

Flowering Time: April to May

Light Requirement: Shade

Wetland Indicator Status:

FAC – similar likelihood of occurring in both wetlands and non-wetlands

Habitat: Rich ravines of salt dome hardwood forests.

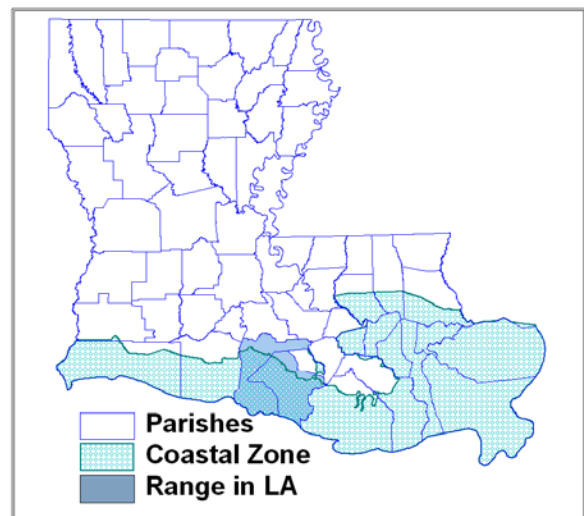
Threats:

- Exotic plants and animals
- Unnatural rates of erosion

Beneficial Management Practices:

- Protect remaining salt dome hardwood forest from conversion
- Refrain from planting exotics such as *Ardisia crenata* and other exotic plants
- Kill more wild hogs

LA River Basins: Atchafalaya, Vermilion-Teche



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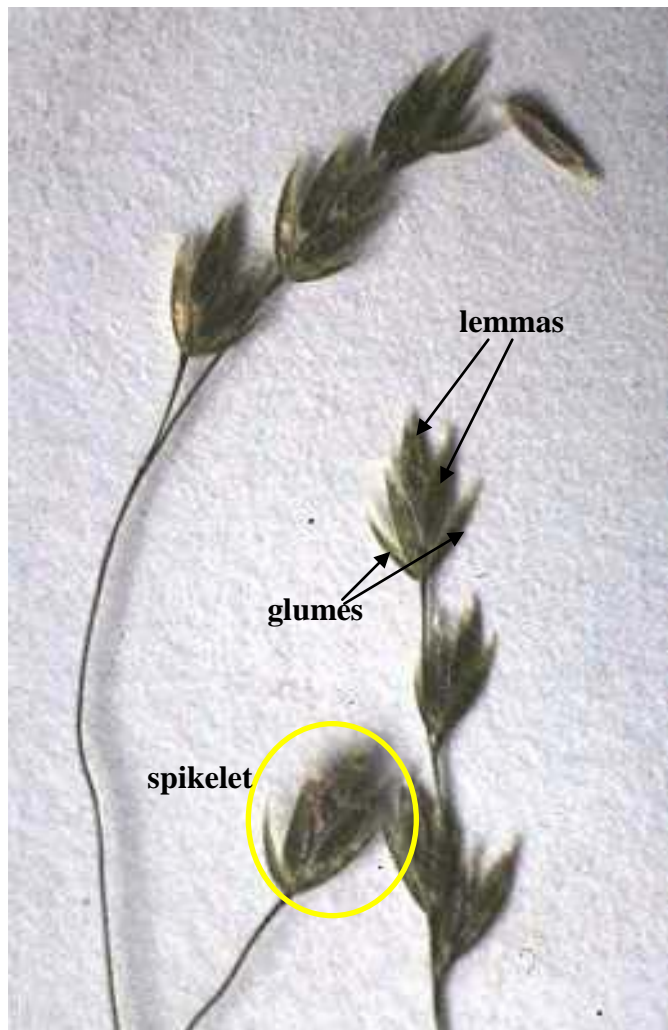
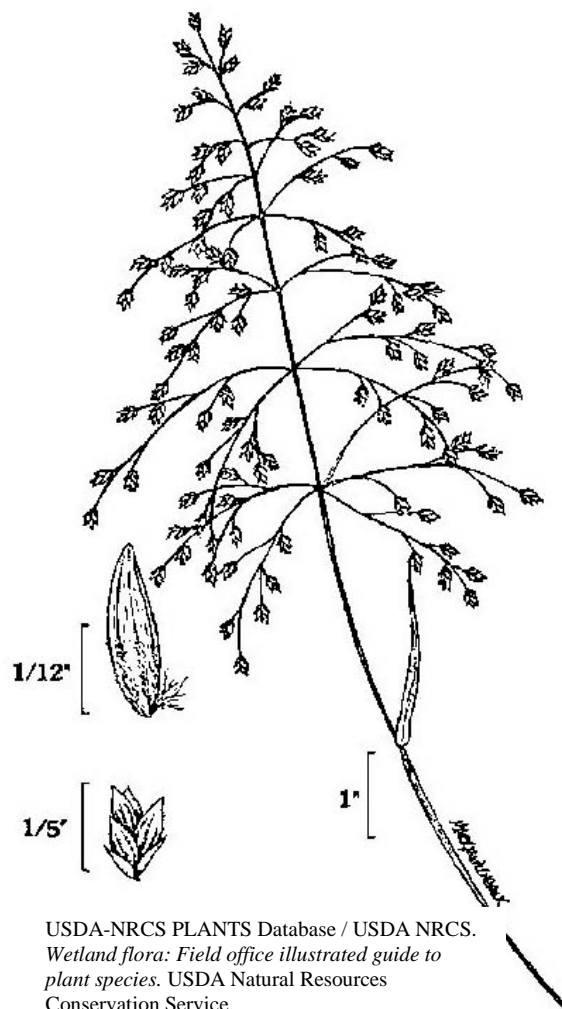


Photo by Emmet J. Judziewicz:
University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point



USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / USDA NRCS.
*Wetland flora: Field office illustrated guide to
plant species.* USDA Natural Resources
Conservation Service.

References:

Allen, C.M., D.A. Newman, and H. Winters. 2004. *Grasses of Louisiana*, 3rd edition. Allen's Native Ventures. Pitkin, LA. 374 pp.

Diggs, G. M., B. L. Liscomb, M. D. Reed, and R. J. O'Kennon. , 2006. *Illustrated Flora of East Texas*. Vol. 1. Botanical Research Institute of Texas & Austin College. 1594 pp.

USDA, NRCS. 2007. The PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.